

What is claimed is:

1. A microreplicated shaving element comprising:
 - a substrate;
 - a plurality of micro-shaving elements projecting outwardly from a surface defined by the substrate, each micro-shaving element defining a cutting edge spaced away from said surface; and
 - a plurality of guard elements attached to and extending outwardly from said substrate each being positioned adjacent to at least one of said micro-shaving elements, each guard element having a non-planar distal end for engaging a user's skin during a shaving operation.
2. A microreplicated shaving element as defined by claim 1 wherein each of said guard elements is generally cylindrical and each non-planar distal end is arcuate.
3. A microreplicated shaving element of claim 2 wherein the micro-shaving elements are positioned on the substrate surface in a repeating pattern.
4. A microreplicated shaving element as defined by claim 1 wherein said plurality of guard elements are positioned in interstices defined between said shaving elements.
5. A microreplicated shaving element as defined by claim 1 wherein said cutting edge defined by each of said micro-shaving elements and said distal ends of said guard elements line in the same plane.
6. A microreplicated shaving element as defined by claim 1 wherein said distal end of at least a portion of said guard elements comprises a shaving aid.
7. A microreplicated shaving element as defined by claim 1 wherein said distal end of at least a portion of said guard elements defines an aperture therein adapted to receive a quantity of a shaving aid dispensable therefrom during a shaving operation.

8. A microreplicated shaving element as defined by claim 1 wherein a portion of said distal ends define a shape different from the remainder of said distal ends.
9. A microreplicated shaving element as defined by claim 1 wherein said substrate defines at least one aperture extending therethrough.
10. A microreplicated substrate as defined by claim 9 wherein said at least one aperture includes a plurality of apertures to allow for the wash through of shaving debris accumulated during a shaving operation.